



**Request for City Council Committee Action
Health Department**

Date: June 2, 2014

To: HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Subject: REPORT ON THE POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED COSTS FOR HEALTH INSPECTORS FOR ALL-STAR GAME EVENTS, SHORT TERM COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PLAN REVIEW

Recommendation:

Receive and file report on the potential for increased costs for health inspections for overtime, permit staff, mutual aid, and training expenses in support of expanded food inspections in 2014. Increased staff time is needed for the week of the All Stars Game activities, for short term community events, and plan review associated with growth in the food sector including the new Vikings Stadium.

Previous Directives: None

Prepared or Submitted by: Becky McIntosh, Director of Planning & Administration
Phone: x2884

Approved by: _____
Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval ____ Not Applicable X
Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval ____ Date of Approval ____ Not Applicable X

Presenters in Committee: Daniel Huff, Director Environmental Health

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

X No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).

Background/Supporting Information Attached

The Food, Lodging and Pools unit of the Environmental Health Division within the Minneapolis Health Department conducts health inspectors of licensed restaurants, hotels, pools, farmers markets, festivals, tattoo parlors, and many other facilities. The unit operates under separate delegation agreements from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Minnesota Department of Health, and is charged with protecting Minneapolis' residents and guests from disease and injury at licensed businesses.

All Star Game

During the five days of events surrounding the Major League Baseball All Star Game, the Minneapolis Health Department is charged with protecting food security and providing proper oversight of food safety. Based upon guidance provided by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Minnesota Department of Health, Minneapolis Health will be operating two shifts of health inspectors to cover the

various events held for fans, players, owners and VIPs. Additionally, Minneapolis Health will, through an outside contractor, provide food security and food safety training to line staff at the various high profile venues.

Festival, Community and Park Events

In 2013 the Health Department issued licenses to 993 food vendors at community events. Food served outdoors and at community events is at high risk for foodborne illness. While the department met its obligation under its delegation agreements to inspect at least 10% of these food vendors, it does not have adequate staffing to inspect and safely manage all. In 2013, one of the many events that were not inspected was the Ecuadorian Festival which resulted in the second largest foodborne illness outbreak in state history. The outbreak caused 119 confirmed cases of Salmonellosis with 19 people being hospitalized, and garnered the City national negative publicity. As a result of this failure to protect public health, the department has revamped the licensing and inspection process for these events based upon national best practices. This includes additional staff time reviewing license applications and a goal of inspecting 100% of these community events and festivals. To meet this demand, health inspectors will incur overtime to cover these weekend events, and the department has also hired an additional summer intern.

Health Plan Review

The Minneapolis Health Department conducts construction plan review of all Food establishments undergoing construction or remodeling to ensure compliance with state health codes. Minneapolis' robust food and construction industries have increased work load and exceeded capacity of Health plan review staff. In 2013 Health Inspectors reviewed 275 plans and 450 health addendums (change of ownership) and conducted 450 construction inspections. 2014 is on pace to exceed these numbers. Staffing models for the Food, Lodging and Pools do not account for this increase in workload. In order to meet demand, inspectors have been pulled from the field, jeopardizing state mandated inspection frequency. Later this summer plan review of the new Vikings Stadium is anticipated to increase workload by 40%. To meet this demand, the Health Department will hire a temporary staff person.

Health department staff has met with senior finance officials to discuss this need, and will continue to work with finance to monitor the impact on the department's 2014 budget.

In developing the 2015 budget the department will be requesting an additional 4.0 FTE Health Inspectors to ensure compliance with delegation agreements and to approach the national standards for health inspection staffing.